IV. *An Account of the Burning of ſeveral Hay-Ricks by a Fiery Exhalation or Damp: And of the Infectious Quality of the Graſs of ſeveral Grounds. From the ſame Ingenious Perſon.*

SIR,

I Received this laſt Poſt from my worthily eſteemed Friend Mr. *Maurice Jones*, Rector of *Dôl-Gelheu*; the following Account of the burning of ſeveral Ricks of Hay and Houſes, and alſo the Poyſoning of the Graſs, ſo as to render it Mortal to the Cattle that feed upon it, by a kindled Exhalation, or *Ignis Fatuus*. Be pleaſed to take it in his own words:

'This Letter contains no Anſwer to your Queries a-'bout the Locuſts, for I am wholly intent at preſent 'upon giving you the beſt Account I can of a moſt 'Diſmal and Prodigious Accident at *Harlech* in this 'County the beginning of theſe Holy-days. It is of 'the unaccountable firing of Sixteen Ricks of Hay, and 'two Barns, whereof one was full of Corn, the other 'of Hay. I call it *unaccountable*, becauſe 'tis evident 'they were not burnt by common Fire, but by a kind-'led Exhalation, which was often ſeen to come from 'the Sea. Of the duration whereof I cannot at pre-'ſent give you any certain Account, but am ſatisfied it 'laſted at leaſt a Fortnight or three Weeks; and annoy'd 'the Country as well by Poyſoning their Graſs as Firing 'the Hay, for the ſpace of a Mile, or thereabouts. Such 'as have ſeen the Fire, ſay, 'twas a blew weak Flame; 'eaſily

'easily extinguish'd, and that it did not the least harm 'to any of the Men who interpos'ed their Endeavours 'to save the Hay, though they ventured (perceiving it 'different from common Fire) not only close to it, but 'sometimes into it. All the Damage sustained happen'd 'constantly in the Night. I have enclosed a Catalogue 'of such as I have received certain Information of; 'and have nothing to add, but that there are three small 'Tenements in the same Neighbour-hood (call'd *Tydhin 'Siôn Wyn*) whereof the Grass is so infected, that it ab-'solutely kills all manner of Cattle that feed upon it. 'The Grass has been Infectious these three Years, but 'not throughly Fatal till this last. Pray send me with 'all convenient speed your Friends Thoughts and your 'own, of the Causes, and if possible, also the Remedy 'of this Surprizing *Phænomenon*, &c.

Dôl-Gelheu,
Jan. 20*th.* 169¾.

Decemb. 24th. 1693. *Richard Griffith* of *Lechwedh-du*, *Humphrey Owen* of *Garreg-wenn*, and *Richard Davydh* of *Erw-wenn*, each of these lost a Rick of Hay the 24*th.* at Night.

Decemb. 27th. 1693. That Night was burnt one Rick of Hay of *John Philips* of *Tnys Lanvihangel y Traethau*, two Ricks of Hay of *Griffith John Owen* of *Cefn Trevor-bâch*, and *Katherine William*, Widdow, of *Cefn-Trevor-fvawr*, lost two Ricks.

Decemb. 29th. 1693. That Night *Francis Evans* of *Glas-vryn* had one Rick burnt. *Richard Davydh* of *Erw-wen*, predict. had a Barn-full of Hay of three Bayles of Buildings burnt down to the Ground.